## REMARKS

A final Office Action was mailed on April 23, 2003. Claims 1 – 16 are pending in the present application. With this Response, Applicants amend claims 3, 6, 9, 11, 12 and 13. No new matter is introduced.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

On information and belief, Applicants filed a priority claim and certified copy of the priority document (Japanese patent application no. 11-195474) for the present application mailed on March 29, 2000 to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. In an Office Action of April 23, 2003, no acknowledgement was provided as to receipt of the priority claim and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. In a Response of August 22, 2003, Applicants requested that a supplemental Office communication be issued formally providing this acknowledgement. On information and belief, no supplemental communication was received by Applicants. In addition, the present Office Action provides no acknowledgement of the priority claim and receipt of the certified priority document. Therefore, Applicants once more respectfully request that a supplemental Office communication be issued formally providing this acknowledgement. Applicants' representative has in addition left a telephone message at the Examiner's listed telephone number on November 16, 2004 to make this request. If the Examiner is unable to comply with this request, he is urged to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 14 - 16 are allowed. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9 – 11 are objected to as each being dependent on a rejected base claim, but that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its associated base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants amend claims 9 and 11 accordingly, and respectfully submit that amended claims 9 and 11 are in condition for allowance. As claim 10 depends from allowable claim 9, Applicants submit that claim 9 is also allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 9 – 11 be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,477,238 to Schneider et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,734,696 to Day. Claims 1 – 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Schneider and Day. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider in view of Day and AAPA. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Schneider. Applicants amend claims 3 and 6 to respectively depend from claims 2 and 5, amend claims 12 and 13 to clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse these rejections.

In independent claim 7, Applicants disclose:

7. An order wire monitoring method for monitoring from a monitoring control terminal a quality of an order wire line which couples a plurality of transmission apparatuses via multiplexed lines which multiplex and transmit main and order wire signals, comprising the steps of:

remotely specifying, from the monitoring control terminal, a transmission apparatus which is to transmit test data as a specified transmitting apparatus, and a transmission apparatus which is to receive test data as a specified receiving apparatus;

transmitting the test data from the specified transmitting apparatus to the order wire line in response to a start of a test instructed from the monitoring control terminal;

receiving and temporarily storing the test data in the specified receiving apparatus;

transmitting from the specified receiving apparatus to the monitoring control terminal via the specified transmitting apparatus one of the stored received test data, analyzed data of the received test data, and judgment data indicative of a judgment result of a comparison of the analyzed data and threshold values, after a predetermined time or at a specified time; and

monitoring, in the monitoring control terminal, the quality of the order wire line between the specified transmitting apparatus and the specified receiving apparatus.

The Examiner acknowledges that Schneider fails to disclose "remotely monitoring in a monitoring control terminal, a quality of the order wire line between a specified transmitting apparatus and a specified receiving apparatus", but suggests that these missing limitations are taught by Day.

Day discloses a system for testing telecommunications equipment, including a local test controller at each equipment site in communication with a master test controller (see, e.g., abstract of Day). In sharp contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, the system of Day performs comparing and judgment functions (analysis) in the master test controller rather than in the local controllers, while Applicants monitoring control terminal remotely performs comparing and judgement functions to monitor the quality of

the order wire. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is not made obvious by the combination of Schneider and Day, and is therefore allowable.

In amended independent claim 12, for example, Applicants disclose:

> **12.** A transmission apparatus adapted to receive instructions from a remote monitoring control terminal, comprising:
>
> a multiplexing and demultiplexing section to carry out a multiplexing and a demultiplexing; and
>
> an order wire section to convert received order wire signals demultiplexed by said multiplexing and demultiplexing section into analog signals, and to convert transmitting order wire signals into digital signals which are input to said multiplexing and demultiplexing section;
>
> said order wire section comprising:
>
> a codec section to carry out an analog-to-digital conversion and a digital-to-analog conversion with respect to order wire signals;
>
> a branching and combining section to branch and combine analog order wire signals;
>
> a 2-wire/4-wire converter which is capable of coupling to a telephone set; and
>
> a monitoring processor which includes a storage section to store transmitting and received data, and an order wire monitoring controller,
>
> said order wire monitoring controller controlling transmission of test data stored in said storage section to an order wire line, controlling storage of test data received via the order wire line to said storage section, and controlling transmission and reception of one of the received test data, and judgment data indicative of a judgment result of a comparison of the analyzed data and threshold values, in response to an instruction from the monitoring control terminal,
>
> said order wire monitoring controller storing audio data in said storage section as the received test data, and controlling a loop-back transmission of the audio data stored in said storage section to a transmitting source, in response to a lapse of a predetermined time or a transmission instruction from the monitoring control terminal.

With respect to independent claims 12 and 13, the Examiner acknowledges inter alia that AAPA fails to disclose "a monitoring processor and an order wire monitoring

controller, the order wire [monitoring] controller controlling transmission of test data stored in the storage section to an order wire line, controlling storage of test data received via the order wire line to the storage section, and controlling transmission and reception of one of received test data, analyzed data of the received test data and judgment data indicative of a judgment result of a comparison of the analyzed data and threshold values". The Examiner however suggests that these missing limitations are taught or suggested by Schneider.

Applicants amend independent claims 12 and 13 to clarify that remote monitoring of the quality of an order wire line is performed by a remote monitoring control terminal that controls transmission and reception of test data between a specified transmitting apparatus and a specified receiving apparatus. Neither AAPA nor Schneider discloses or suggests remotely monitoring in a monitoring control terminal, the quality of the order wire line between a specified transmitting apparatus and a specified receiving apparatus. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12 and 13 are not made obvious by the combination of AAPA and Schneider, and are therefore allowable.

In independent claim 1, for example, Applicants disclose:

> **1.** A transmission apparatus adapted to receive instructions from a remote monitoring control terminal, comprising:
>
> a multiplexing and demultiplexing section to carry out a multiplexing and a demultiplexing; and
>
> an order wire section to convert received order wire signals demultiplexed by said multiplexing and demultiplexing section into analog signals, and to convert transmitting order wire signals into digital signals which are input to said multiplexing and demultiplexing section,
>
> said order wire section comprising:
>
> a codec section to carry out an analog-to-digital conversion and a digital-to-analog conversion with respect to order wire signals;

a branching and combining section to branch and combine analog order wire signals;

a 2-wire/4-wire converter which is capable of coupling to a telephone set; and

a monitoring processor which includes a storage section to store transmitting and received data, and an order wire monitoring controller,

said order wire monitoring controller controlling transmission of test data stored in said storage section to an order wire line, controlling storage of test data received via the order wire line to said storage section, and controlling transmission and reception of one of the received test data, analyzed data of the received test data, and judgment data indicative of a judgment result of a comparison of the analyzed data and threshold values, in response to an instruction from the monitoring control terminal.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 4, the Examiner once again acknowledges inter alia that AAPA fails to disclose "a monitoring processor and an order wire monitoring controller, the order wire monitoring controller controlling transmission of test data stored in the storage section to an order wire line, controlling storage of test data received via the order wire line to the storage section, and controlling transmission and reception of one of received test data, analyzed data of the received test data and judgment data indicative of a judgment result of a comparison of the analyzed data and threshold values". As argued above, Applicants respectfully submit that none of AAPA, Schneider and Day disclose or suggest remotely monitoring in a monitoring control terminal, the quality of the order wire line between a specified transmitting apparatus and a specified receiving apparatus. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 4 are allowable.

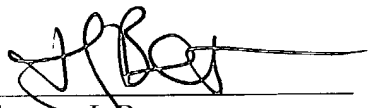
In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 4, 7, 12 and 13 are allowable. As claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8 respectively depend from allowable

claims 1, 4 and 7, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, 5 6, and 8 are allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that 1 - 16, which include independent claims 1, 4, 7, 12 - 14 and 16, and the claims that depend therefrom, stand in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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